

THE MILITANT

INSIDE
The fight for democratic secular
Palestine: a road of struggle
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 75/NO. 37 OCTOBER 17, 2011

Greek rulers prepare yet another round of austerity

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN
ATHENS, Greece—"I am one of the few lucky ones of my generation," Martha Pissanou, a 23-year-old laboratory technician here told the *Militant*. "I have a job."
Official unemployment in Greece is more than 16 percent and climbing as working people here face some of the sharpest blows being dealt by capitalist governments in Europe and beyond.
"My father has worked at the state-owned aircraft company since he was 24," said Pissanou. "He was just told he is one of thousands who will be let go. Now what? The government and the mentality of the country are to blame. But I am also starting to think that something much bigger, not only to us in Greece, is happening which I have not yet figured out."
The government of George Papandreou has already imposed two rounds of stiff austerity measures, which have had a devastating effect on working people and large sections of the mid-
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N. Dakota: aid pours in for locked-out sugar workers

Solidarity spreads—from Tampa to Tanzania



Unloading food and other donations for locked-out sugar workers, Drayton, N.D., October 2.

BY FRANK FORRESTAL
GRAND FORKS, N.D.—"I had to do something to help," said Scott Nelson, a member of Teamsters Local 120, as he loaded crates of bread onto a Teamsters semitrailer parked

in front of the local office of the union representing locked-out sugar workers here. "I can't watch my sisters and brothers in North Dakota suffer."
Nelson, who works at Sara Lee Mas-

FELLOW UNIONISTS IN IOWA ANSWER BOSSES' SMEAR OF THEIR FIGHT
—See article on p. 4

ter Bread in Grand Forks, organized a donation of hundreds of loaves and kicked in more than \$300 himself.
Two days after workers by a 96 percent margin rejected American Crystal Sugar's "final offer" July 30 the sugar giant locked out 1,300 members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union in five factories
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White House openly targets, kills US citizen in Yemen

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
A U.S. drone strike in Yemen September 30 killed Anwar al-Awlaki, a U.S. citizen whom President Barack Obama last year declared was a government target for assassination.
The White House defends its decision to kill al-Awlaki, an Islamist cleric, based on allegations that he was a central leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula with links to terrorist actions.
The FBI says al-Awlaki had contact with Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, who is scheduled to be tried by a military court

WAR ABROAD IS EXTENSION OF WAR ON WORKERS HERE
—See editorial on p. 9

for the 2009 shooting in Fort Hood, Texas, that killed 13 people. At the time, the FBI concluded that there was "no information to indicate Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan had any co-conspirators."
U.S. officials also allege that al-Awlaki had contact with Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who was charged with an attempted suicide bombing of an airliner over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009.
But Washington hasn't charged or produced evidence against al-Awlaki.
Also killed in the same drone attack was Samir Khan, a Saudi-born U.S. citizen who was coeditor of the English-language al-Qaeda magazine *Inspire*. Tribal leaders in the area said five other people were also killed.
Last year Awlaki's father and the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit seeking an injunction against the planned assassination. The court rejected the case, saying Awlaki's father, a Yemeni citizen living in the United States, didn't have standing in the U.S. court. The judge added that "the propriety of his extrajudicial killing wasn't a question for the courts," reported the *Wall Street Journal*, and that "Awlaki always had the option of returning home to prove his innocence."

Find, join working-class fights through 'Militant' campaign

BY MICHEL POITRAS
The international drive to win 2,200 new and renewed subscribers to the *Militant* got off to a good start during the first four days of the campaign, with a total of 172 subscriptions sold.

The effort runs October 1-November 20.
Members of the Socialist Workers Party from Seattle participated in a September 29 rally of some 700
Continued on page 4



As we go to press thousands of young people, workers, and unionists are marching through Lower Manhattan's financial district targeting Wall Street and protesting against the impact of the capitalist economic crisis, government demands on public workers for contract concessions, anti-immigrant laws, and other social problems. Similar actions were called in a number of other cities across the country. This latest protest comes in the third week of ongoing actions under the banner of "Occupy Wall Street." New York cops arrested more than 700 protesters who were attempting to cross the Brooklyn Bridge October 1. The police action failed to dampen spirits of demonstrators and attracted wider public support. So far four subscriptions and 93 copies of the *Militant* have been sold at the action.

Boathouse Restaurant strikers in NY win big victory

BY PAUL MAILHOT
NEW YORK—"We won respect, benefits and better pay," is how Carlos Velez, a butcher at the Boathouse Restaurant in Central Park, summed up the gains for workers here September 22 after a victorious 44-day strike. "We have some power now, the bosses treat us in a different way," he told the *Militant*.
Velez is one of the more than 60
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- Guatemala to Maryland: studies display contempt for workers 6

Report reveals profit drive behind NZ miners' deaths

BY PATRICK BROWN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A coal mine built with no usable emergency exit, in which workers received inadequate safety training and equipment. . . . Coal bosses' impetuous drive for profit without regard to the threat to life and limb of workers. . . .

This is the picture of the Pike River mine that is emerging in the course of the current Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Nov. 19, 2010, disaster in which 29 miners were killed in a series of methane gas explosions.

Located on the west coast of New Zealand's South Island, the mine began producing coal in mid-2009 after many delays. Rising international prices for coking coal generated expectations among capitalists of a profit bonanza. It is now sealed with the bodies of 29 miners trapped inside.

Testifying on September 5, miner Daniel Rockhouse—one of two survivors working underground at the time of blasts—explained how the explosion knocked him semiconscious. He followed advice to go to a fresh air base where he found no fresh air. The supposedly sealed door was open. The air vent and phone were inoperative. Half-overcome by poisonous fumes, Rockhouse and Russell White fought their way to the surface.

Mine manager Douglas White told the inquiry that the base had been decommissioned several weeks earlier. Its replacement was weeks away, he said.

Discussing broader problems of safety and working conditions, Rockhouse noted that smoke lines, which are supposed to guide workers in the event of a disaster, were broken or nonexistent.

The one official emergency exit required a 100 meter-plus climb (328 feet) up a vertical ventilation shaft. No evacuation drill was ever organized. Escape up the shaft would be "difficult under normal circumstances, but in the event of fire would . . . become virtually impossible," stated a safety audit report in 2009.

The existence of only one entry road into the mine was "madness," testified former mine inspector Harry Bell.

Engineer Mark Smith said the company had pushed to get coal out early for "cash reasons" and to test out its hydraulic coal mining equipment.

The incident highlights a decline in safety standards in the mining industry, which employs around 1,000 people nationwide. In the early 1990s, the government made changes to mine safety regulations, which included dissolving the mines inspectorate into the Labour Department and abolishing check inspectors, who were union workers chosen by their peers to check safety conditions in the mines.

In August the government announced that it will double the number of mining inspectors from two to four.

"It has taken the Pike River incident for something like this to hap-

Abortion rights supporters rally in Harrisburg, Pa.



Militant/Janet Post

HARRISBURG, Pa.—Chanting "We've had enough!" 250 supporters of women's right to choose abortion rallied in the rotunda of the state capitol building here September 27. Sponsored by Pennsylvanians for Choice, the rally opposed pending legislation that would place additional onerous restrictions on providers by requiring clinics to be licensed for outpatient surgery and banning state-run insurance from covering abortion procedures. So far this year there have been 61 major abortion-restricting laws passed by U.S. state governments, according to the Guttmacher Institute, about three times the number last year and more than double the previous record of 28 in 1997. The rally drew students from Penn State, the University of Pittsburgh and a busload of 40 students from Arcadia University.

—JANET POST

pen," Valma McGowan, whose husband Robert was killed in the Black Reef mine in 2006, told the *Militant*.

"We're paying a price" for the elimination of the worker-inspectors, said

Trevor Bolderson, a miner at Spring Creek and local union president for the Engineering, Printing and Manufacturing Union. "The price is 29 still underground."

UK: 5 miners killed in September

BY PETE CLIFFORD

MANCHESTER, England—Miner Gerry Gibson was killed in a roof fall at Kellingley mine in Yorkshire September 27.

The death comes after four miners were killed September 15 in Wales.

There are just seven deep mines and 20 drift mines with about 3,500 miners in the United Kingdom.

This is the third death in this mine since 2008. In 2010, some 200 workers were evacuated from Kellingley after an underground methane explosion.

"We've lost three miners in three years at the same colliery. I think something needs to be looked into," Betty Cook, whose son Don died in a rock fall at Kellingley in 2008, told BBC.

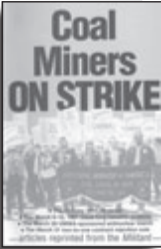
UK Coal pled guilty to safety violations that caused the deaths of four miners at two other mines. The company faces sentencing at Sheffield Crown Court in October.

COAL MINERS ON STRIKE

By Andy Rose, Nancy Cole

Articles on the 111-day 1977-78 miners' strike, the 1981 strike and contract rejection vote, and the fight for health benefits and compensation to black lung victims, and more.—\$7

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THE MILITANT

"I would recommend the 'Militant'"

"I would recommend the 'Militant' to anyone looking for fair and equal treatment, trying to keep a union in good standing, or organizing labor to stand up and fight for our rights."

—Brian Wilson

locked-out steelworker at Armstrong, Marietta, Pa.



Militant/Glova Scott

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Wash. rally backs longshore workers' union battle

BY MARY MARTIN

LONGVIEW, Wash.—Shouting “We are union!” some 700 unionists and supporters rallied here September 29 to support International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 in its fight against union busting at the EGT grain terminal.

EGT Development has refused to hire ILWU workers in violation of an agreement between the union and the Port of Longview. The company has instead hired members of Operating Engineers Local 701 through a subcontractor, under inferior conditions and without a contract.

The rally at Civic Circle drew participants from Seattle to Portland, Ore., including members of the ILWU and ILWU Ladies Auxiliary Local 14, as well as members of the Teamsters; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; United Food and Commercial Workers; Inland Boatmen's Union; Painters union; and Industrial Workers of the World.

ILWU Local 21 officer Jason Lundquist chaired the program. He welcomed participants and introduced a short list of speakers, including Jeff Johnson, president of the state AFL-CIO. Leith Kahl, an ILWU member in Seattle, performed a folk ballad with banjo about the union fight.

Prior to the rally the city of Longview circulated a memo to local businesses warning that “an outside ‘anarchist’ group may be attending this rally” that is “known to cause vandalism to property,” the latest example of a violence-baiting and slander campaign against the union. Some businesses closed early.

During the one-hour rally a Coast Guard helicopter hovered overhead, its blades churning the air audibly.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton in Tacoma levied a \$250,000 fine against the union September 30 for alleged damages caused at the EGT terminal and to Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail cars during union protests here September 7-8. The union has said it will appeal.



Militant/Clay Dennison

Solidarity rally in Longview, Wash., September 29 for International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 in fight against union busting.

Thousands turn out for Troy Davis funeral

BY JACOB PERASSO

SAVANNAH, Ga.—More than 2,000 supporters of Troy Davis packed the Jonesville Baptist Church here October 1 for a Celebration of Life Service. Davis, who is Black, was framed up and sentenced to death for the 1989 killing of a policeman. The state of Georgia executed him September 21.

No physical evidence linked him to the killing. Seven of nine nonpolice witnesses subsequently recanted or changed their testimony, many saying they were pressured by cops to finger Davis.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the state of Georgia and this country . . . murdered an innocent man,” Ed Dubose, president of the Georgia National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told attendees.

The line for the service wrapped around the building. Horace Johnson of Douglasville came on one of two buses from Atlanta. “It was a very sad occasion and he was a young man, but I was so glad to be able to be part of this today,” he said.

Speakers included Davis's nephew, Antoné DéJuan Davis-Correia; Ben Jealous, president of the NAACP; Rev. Raphael Warnock, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church; Larry Cox, execu-

tive director of Amnesty International; and Davis's attorney Jason Ewart.

Afterward hundreds attended a repast at the hall of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 1414.

Several speakers referred to a statement Davis made to his supporters in 2008 and to his brief final words. “No matter what happens in the days and

weeks to come,” Davis said in 2008, “this movement to end the death penalty, to seek true justice, to expose a system that fails to protect the innocent must be accelerated. There are so many more Troy Davises.” Among Davis's final words he asked his friends and family to “continue to fight this fight.”



Militant/Maceo Dixon

Line wrapped around church for Troy Davis memorial service in Savannah, Ga., October 1.

Frame-up of Cuban Five has ‘resonance’ in New Zealand

BY SIAN ROBERTSON
AND JANET ROTH

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—A meeting September 27 at the University of Auckland discussed the case of the Cuban Five. The event was organized by the campus Students Association as part of “politics week” and sponsored by Amnesty on Campus and the Cuba Friendship Society.

The five—Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González and René González—are Cuban revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned in the United States for more than 13 years. They were arrested by the FBI in 1998 and convicted in 2001 on a series of frame-up charges, including of conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, of conspiracy to commit murder. The five were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 15 years for René González to double life plus 15 years for Hernández.

The five had lived and worked in southern Florida in order to keep the Cuban government informed on activities of counterrevolutionary groups with a history of assaults and acts of sabotage against Cuba. An international campaign has been fighting to draw atten-

tion to the case and win their freedom.

Jane Kelsey, a professor of law at the university, pointed out that the charges laid against the five Cuban revolutionaries, involving “extreme abuses of legal process,” have an “uncomfortable resonance” in New Zealand.

“Four of those arrested in the Urewera raids face conspiracy charges not dissimilar to those against the Cuban Five,” she said, referring to Maori rights advocates targeted in an “antiterrorism” frame-up in 2007. Such charges require “no proof of an act having occurred.”

The meeting discussed the impending release of René González October 7. Part of his sentence includes a three-year supervised release. González's request to return to Cuba after prison was denied September 16 as “premature” by U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard. His lawyer announced he intends to renew the request as soon as González is released.

Twenty-three people attended the meeting. Daniel Haines, International Affairs Officer of the Students Association, addressed the gathering. Annalucia Vermunt, who ran as the Communist League's candidate for Auckland mayor last year, spoke on behalf of the Cuba Friendship Society.

Special offers with Militant subscription

Teamster Rebellion

by Farrell Dobbs ~~\$19~~ \$10 with subscription

The story of the strikes and union organizing drive the men and women of Teamsters Local 574 carried out in Minnesota in 1934, paving the way for the continent-wide rise of the Congress of Industrial Organizations as a fighting social movement.

Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes ~~\$20~~ \$10 with subscription

This book helps us understand why it is the revolutionary conquest of power by the working class that will make possible the final battle for Black freedom—and open the way to a world based not on exploitation, violence, and racism, but human solidarity. A socialist world.

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics Working-Class Politics and the Unions

by Jack Barnes ~~\$24~~ \$10 with subscription

A handbook for those seeking the road toward effective action to overturn the exploitative system of capitalism and join in reconstructing the world on new, socialist foundations.

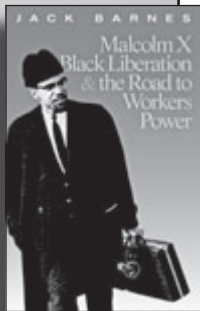
Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters ~~\$7~~ \$5 with subscription

The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning

by Jack Barnes ~~\$3~~ \$2 with subscription

Contact distributors on page 8—subscription rates on page 2



Pathfinder Press

Unionists in Iowa answer American Crystal smears

BY MAGGIE TROWE

KEOKUK, Iowa—American Crystal Sugar bosses have sought to denigrate a recently concluded struggle by workers here as part of their antiunion disinformation campaign aimed at 1,300 workers in the Upper Midwest who are fighting the company’s lockout and attempts to impose a concession contract. Both groups of workers are members of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers union.

This reporter spoke with two leading participants in the hard-fought 10-month struggle against grain processor Roquette America’s lockout here, which ended in July. They were eager to answer American Crystal’s falsification of their fight for the benefit of their union brothers and sisters in struggle.

An unsigned statement titled “Was It Worth It? American Crystal Does Not Want Another Keokuk Situation” was posted in September on the company’s website. “American Crystal’s hope is that we’re able to reach an agreement more quickly than the one reached in Keokuk,” it said. “After a 10-month work stoppage, those union employees agreed to a contract that included a 4-year wage freeze for current employees, a \$2/hour wage cut for new employees, as well as the health care plan offered by the company. The employees in Keokuk

must be questioning whether losing almost a year of their wages and benefits was worth these results.”

It quotes a statement by BCTGM Local 48G President Steve Underwood printed in *Gate City*, Keokuk’s newspaper. “I’m not real pleased with the contract,” it said, “but it’s been 10 months with 237 families not receiving an income. We’ll just have to live with it.”

“I can’t wait to contact my brothers and sisters in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota to tell them it was well worth it that we stayed out for 10 months,” Buddy Howard, a leader of the Keokuk unionists and president of the Lee County Labor Council, told the *Militant*. “It showed us who we are; it galvanized us as a union.”

Howard traveled to visit picket lines against American Crystal in Moorhead, Minn., and Hillsboro, N.D., in August to show solidarity and share experiences from the fight against Roquette.

“We *did* fight for the new hires,” Howard said. “We pushed back the company’s initial contract offer paying new hires \$4 an hour less, and reduced it to \$2. We prevented 50 people from losing their jobs. We forced the company to drop the clause that says the company has the inherent right to replace union workers at any time.”

Howard said the bonds of solidar-



Militant/Lisa Rottach

March in Keokuk, Iowa, Nov. 13, 2010, to support workers who were locked out by corn processor Roquette America. The unionists won broad backing during their 10-month struggle.

ity forged by round-the-clock picketing strengthened the individual members and their organization. “When we go in the plant as a team on a shift, many of us wear union T-shirts and stickers on our hard hats. And we stand together when someone’s in trouble. We fight back when the company writes us up for using the word ‘scab.’”

“I thought it was unfortunate that American Crystal would take my statement out of context and use it in an effort to put further pressure on their locked-out employees,” said Underwood. “We would dispute their charge” that there was no reason to vote against Roquette’s contract offer in September 2010, he

said. “The original contract offer made significant attacks on seniority and work rules.” The unionists didn’t want a lockout, Underwood said, “but all indications are that Roquette had been planning for it for a long time.”

Underwood agreed with Howard that fighting the lockout made the union stronger. “We had a very good showing of solidarity—we organized two rallies and several marches and expanded picket lines.”

Members of unions and other workers from Keokuk and beyond came to reinforce the picket lines, attend solidarity fund-raisers and contribute to the hardship fund established by the union. Members of Local 48G made links with Steelworkers in Metropolis, Ill., who stood up to Honeywell’s lockout for 14 months.

The positive and proud assessment among those who stood up to Roquette is presented in an article in the August 8 issue of the *Militant* titled “Iowa Lockout Ends: Union Fought, Came Out Stronger.”

Socialist Workers Party begins fund drive

BY OMARI MUSA

The Socialist Workers Party has launched an eight-week drive to raise \$100,000 to advance the work of building a revolutionary proletarian party. The drive, which began October 1 and extends through November 27, is off to a strong start with quotas adopted from each area totaling \$100,900. (See chart on this page).

Armed with the *Militant* newsweekly and books by Pathfinder Press on revolutionary working-class politics, communist workers are joining resistance by working people. Today there are increasing examples in which workers are fighting back against the drive by the bosses and their government to make us, the toilers of city and countryside, shoulder the burden of their capitalist economic crisis.

We stand with workers fighting union busting from Minnesota and North Dakota in their battle against American Crystal Sugar, to Steelworkers fighting

Armstrong World Industries in Pennsylvania, to International Longshore and Warehouse Union members in Washington state in their battle with EGT grain terminal bosses at the Port of Longview.

We are finding workers who are seeking a way forward. Many are open to discussing the necessity and possibility of a mass revolutionary struggle by the working class and its allies to wrest political power from the capitalist rulers and reorganize society based on solidar-

ity instead of profit.

As we reach out to working-class fighters many will contribute to the Party-Building Fund. While many may not yet agree with the perspective of worldwide proletarian revolution, they see communist workers as part of a common struggle against the bosses and their government.

A team of communist workers in Seattle sold a *Militant* subscription to Byron Jacobs, a member of ILWU Local 21 in Longview. He said to keep the \$5 change “as a contribution to your work.” Later while going door to door they spoke with Norma Reynolds, a union supporter who donated \$10 “to keep up the work you’re doing.” There are many more Byrons and Normas out there.

Donate to the SWP Party-Building Fund by sending your contribution to the nearest address listed on page 8.

Sub drive

Continued from front page

unionists and supporters in Longview, Wash., in solidarity with the ongoing fight by International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21 against union busting by EGT Development.

“By the end of the evening,” wrote Mary Martin, “we had sold seven subscriptions and five copies of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs.” One of five titles on special sale with a subscription, the book is about the successful 1934 strikes and union-organizing drive by Teamsters Local 574 that paved the way for the continent-wide rise of the CIO. (See ad on page 3.) About a dozen copies of *Teamster Rebellion* have been bought in Longview since the beginning of the fight.

Frank Forrestal reported from
Continued on page 9

<i>Militant</i> ’ Subscription Drive October 1 to November 20			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED STATES			
Atlanta	170	10	6%
Boston	60	9	15%
Chicago	165	9	5%
Des Moines	150	16	11%
Houston	80	4	5%
Lincoln, Neb	20	4	20%
Los Angeles	150	13	9%
Miami	90	8	9%
New York	250	19	8%
Philadelphia	90	3	3%
San Francisco	170	12	7%
Seattle	170	22	13%
Twin Cities	140	11	8%
Washington, D.C.	60	1	2%
Total U.S.	1,765	141	8%
U.K.			
Manchester	60	3	5%
London	120	14	12%
Total U.K.	180	17	9%
NEW ZEALAND	80	10	13%
CANADA	75	5	7%
AUSTRALIA	65	0	0%
Total	2,165	173	8%
Int’l Goal	2,200		

<i>Party-Building Fund</i> Oct. 1 - Nov. 20	
	Quota
Atlanta	\$8,000
Boston	\$3,800
Chicago	\$10,000
Des Moines	\$3,000
Houston	\$4,000
Lincoln, Neb.	\$200
Los Angeles	\$8,500
Miami	\$3,200
New York	\$20,000
Philadelphia	\$3,700
San Francisco	\$14,000
Seattle	\$9,000
Twin Cities	\$6,000
Washington	\$7,500
TOTAL	\$100,900
GOAL	\$100,000

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CALIFORNIA
San Francisco
Postal Workers Respond to Attacks. Fri., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St. Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

TEXAS
Houston
The Class Struggle in Israel and the Middle East Today. Speaker: Paul Mailhot, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 15. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. 4800 W. 34th St. Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

CANADA
Montreal
What Is the Road Forward for Palestinian Liberation? Speaker: Joe Young, Communist League. Fri., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 7107 St-Denis, room 204 (second floor above Marché oriental). Tel.: (514) 272-5840.

—CALENDAR—

CANADA
Montreal
Hear Dr. Jorge Tomás Balseiro Estévez, member of Cuba’s medical mission in Haiti. Sun., Oct. 16, 4 p.m. Meeting opens two-week cross-Canada tour by Dr. Balseiro on Cuba’s efforts since Haiti’s earthquake last year to help build a modern medical system there. *Haitian Cultural Association Perle Retrouvée*, 7655 20th Ave. Tel.: (514) 728-7222. Sponsor: *Table de concertation de solidarité Québec-Cuba*.

ON THE PICKET LINE

Workers protest Kraft Nabisco's attempt to contract out jobs

ATLANTA—Members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 42 protested at the Kraft Foods Nabisco plant here September 27. The company is trying to contract out to Ecel, a nonunion outfit, the work of truck drivers and warehouse workers at its depot facility in Norcross.

“They want to eliminate half the workforce and then hire others for half the pay,” 16-year truck driver Edwin Martin told the *Militant*. “These are workers with a minimum of 10 or 12 years with the company. Our contract isn’t up until February, but they’re telling us if we don’t accept this now, the workers won’t get any severance pay.”

Boathouse

Continued from the front page

cooks, waiters, banquet servers, dishwashers, and other staff who walked off the job and had been picketing daily outside the Boathouse Restaurant. They were joined by dozens of workers who had been fired leading up to the strike, they say, for supporting an effort to join the Hotel Trades Council Local 6.

“The Boathouse Restaurant workers won a four-year union contract with substantial wage and other gains,” John Turchiano, editor of *Hotel Voice*, the Hotel Trades Council Local 6 online magazine, told the *Militant*. The lowest wage has risen from \$7.50 an hour to \$13.50, with 5 percent increases in each of the following three years, said Turchiano. Most workers received at least a 40 percent raise, with some as high as 90 percent.

I’ve heard that my pay will go up from \$12.50 to \$20 an hour,” Edgar Ventura, who did not walk out with his fellow workers, told the *Militant* outside the restaurant September 25, a day before strikers returned to work.

Nearly 40 workers who had been fired for supporting the union are to be reinstated, according to Turchiano. The new union contract also includes “full family medical and dental benefits, seniority and other union rights,” he said.

The owners of the normally busy eating place—at the edge of a lake in Central Park—experienced a dramatic fall off in business because of the boisterous picket lines and appeals for solidarity. On a recent Saturday afternoon, not a single patron was seated in the outdoor dining and lounge areas of the restaurant.

Concerned that growing support for the strike from thousands of people walking through the park was beginning to tarnish the city’s tourist image, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s office got directly involved. The announcement to the press that the owner, Dean Poll, had agreed to recognize the union and sign a contract was made by Deputy Mayor Robert Steel.

Not all of the workers at the restaurant joined the fight for the union. According to several strikers, several dozen restaurant employees did not walk out and worked alongside temporary replacement workers. “There were a lot of scabs who worked during the strike, but we fought for their rights, too,” said Velez. “Now they realize it was worth it. They get the same benefits we do.”

“This is straight blackmail,” added Zack Townsend, Local 42 business agent, as the 35 unionists protested the union-busting move and held homemade signs saying, “Contract violation” and “Say no to corporate greed.”

Many workers were familiar with the lockout of the 1,300 sugar workers in Minnesota and North Dakota also organized by the BCTGM.

—Janice Lynn

Minn. nurses approve contract with Sanford Bemidji Hospital

MINNEAPOLIS—Nurses in Bemidji, Minn., approved a three-year contract offer from Sanford Bemidji Medical Center September 13 after six months of negotiations. On July 28 the nurses had overwhelmingly rejected management’s “final” offer. Although they continued to work they carried out informational picketing. They also extended solidarity to the locked-out sugar beet workers in the nearby Red River Valley in Minnesota and North Dakota with a \$10,000 donation.

“It was a long, tough road,” Peter Danielson, chair of the Minnesota Nurses Association bargaining team, told the media. “While to us this isn’t a perfect resolution, it is a compromise that helps put our patients first.” MNA represents 230 registered nurses at the hospital.

The contract includes a 3 percent pay raise over three years and requires nurses to pay a \$750 deductible on their health insurance, according to Associated Press.

—Natalie Morrison

Postal workers protest closings, layoffs, and end to Sat. delivery

DES MOINES, Iowa—Dozens of postal workers rallied here September 27 as part of a national day of protest against proposals for massive cuts in service, the layoff of 120,000 employees, and elimination of Saturday mail delivery, to deal with the budget crisis the United States Postal Service is facing.

The Postal Service is “using the economic crisis as an opportunity to get out of the contract, to get rid of



Militant/Naomi Craine

Postal workers rally in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., as part of September 27 national day of protest against proposals for service cuts, layoffs and end of Saturday mail delivery.

older workers,” Rene Charbonneau, a postal worker for 20 years, told the *Militant*. Charbonneau and some 70 others rallied outside Congressman Leonard Boswell’s office in Des Moines.

In Waterloo, 40 gathered outside Rep. Bruce Braley’s office.

—Willie Cotton

NEW YORK—More than 250 postal workers rallied outside the Varick Street post office in Manhattan September 27. This was one of 29 rallies in New York state that day.

“Five days no way, six days the only way,” workers chanted, referring to the threat to eliminate Saturday delivery.

“Elimination of Saturday delivery would make some of us part-time,” said John Bonno with 25 years seniority.

—Dan Fein

NY workers reject contract; governor to lay off 3,500

NEW YORK—In spite of threats by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo that he would lay off 3,500 workers if

a proposed contract was voted down, members of the Public Employees Federation rejected the proposed five-year contract, which included wage freezes and benefit cuts.

“We’re going ahead with the layoffs, and it wasn’t a bluff,” Cuomo said September 30 after the 52,000-member union voted down the pact by 54 percent. Nearly 70 percent of union members cast ballots.

The union executive board had recommended approving the contract, which is similar to one agreed to by the largest state public workers union, the Civil Service Employees Association.

—Seth Galinsky

Involved in a labor struggle?

The *Militant* welcomes articles on labor fights. Are you involved in a struggle at your workplace? Let us know. You can send us photos and short items. Check out the link “to submit article or photo” at the top of the *Militant* website: www.themilitant.com. See page 2 for how to contact us.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



October 17, 1986

In the biggest strike ever by Black mine workers in South Africa, some 300,000 stayed away from their jobs October 1. They did so to protest a disastrous accident at Kinross goldmine that claimed the lives of 177 miners.

Marcel Golding, publicity secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said that this show of strength was “unparalleled in South African labor history.” The Chamber of Mines had proposed that the workers, rather than striking, observe a five-minute silence to commemorate the dead.

In some mines not a single Black worker went to work. In addition to the mine workers who struck—representing about half of all miners in the country—some 275,000 other workers also took part in the day of protest.



October 16, 1961

“It’s rough on anybody who is working to strike, but I’d rather be in a soup line than let the company walk over me,” commented one worker as he walked out of the Ford Motor Company’s River Rouge plant Oct. 3 in response to the strike call of the United Auto Workers Union. The strike—the first to hit the entire company since the UAW organized Ford in 1941—is dominated by the question of working conditions inside the plants. It is essentially a fight against Ford’s grueling speed-up system.

Two Ford locals organized large-scale mass picketing Oct. 9 to keep office workers from entering the River Rouge plant and the Lincoln-Mercury division headquarters. Local 600 officers said the action was to protest foremen doing union members’ work.



December 19, 1936

On Aug. 15, 1936, sixteen men were arraigned by the Russian state prosecutor on charges of conspiring, together with the German Fascist Government and Leon Trotsky to assassinate the seven most prominent Soviet leaders, and of the actual murder of S.M. Kirov, another high Soviet official. Nine days later the trial had ended, the 16 were sentenced to die. In less than 24 hours the defendants were dead.

In that 10-day span, the names of old Bolsheviks implicated in [the] crime mounted until the total was almost a complete roll-call of the leaders of the Russian Revolution.

Certainly no historian from extreme left to extreme right could deny that without these men the workers victory in Russia would have been impossible.

‘Experiment’ in Guatemala infected 1,300 with diseases

Report exposes secret US project in 1940s

BY CINDY JAQUITH
AND SETH GALINSKY

In mid-September a U.S. presidential commission released a report confirming that more than 1,300 Guatemalans—including soldiers, prisoners, prostitutes, and psychiatric patients—were deliberately infected with venereal diseases from 1946 to 1948 under a program organized by the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Institute of Health. The “researchers” never told the Guatemalans they were being infected.

The experiments were carried out with the approval of the surgeon general, the attorney general, Army and Navy officials, the president of the American Medical Association, as well as officials from Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and the Universities of Pennsylvania and Rochester. The Guatemalan government was also directly involved.

A hearing in a class-action suit by seven of the victims against U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and other U.S. government officials opened October 4.

“They were used as guinea pigs,” Hiram Sosa Casteñeda, a lawyer in Guatemala City who is representing many of those infected and their families, said in a phone interview. Many passed the disease on to their wives or husbands and children, Sosa added. He estimates that 5,000 people or more were ultimately affected.

It was “the devil’s experiment,” Federico Ramos, 86, told the Spanish daily *El País*. Ramos and Manuel Gudiel, peasants who were drafted into the Guatemalan Army in 1946, are plaintiffs in the suit. Describing how he was injected, Ramos said, “In the barracks, everyone knows, you have to obey orders.” Unaware of the nature of his illness, Gudiel infected his wife. Their daughter was also infected and is blind as a result.

The U.S. government managed to keep the project a secret until last year, when Wellesley College Professor Susan Reverby discovered documents about it in the papers of Dr. John Cutler, who headed the program.

“The purpose was benignly described as . . . enhancing knowledge of the biol-

gy and immunology of syphilis in man,” wrote Reverby.

According to the presidential commission, toward the end of World War II top U.S. military officials wanted to find a cure for venereal diseases or a vaccine or other medicine to prevent them because of their prevalence in the armed forces and the negative effect they had on the U.S. military’s fighting capacities.

They first experimented on prisoners at the U.S. penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind. from 1943 to 1944. They asked inmates to “volunteer,” told them they would be injected with gonorrhea, and said they would be paid \$100 and get a good recommendation to the parole board as compensation. A waiver inmates signed told them they would be helping “the war effort” by participating in the project. Cutler was one of the doctors involved there.

The experiment in Terre Haute was abandoned when the military decided it was taking too long to infect prisoners. In addition, they wanted to experiment on people infected with syphilis, which is more difficult to transmit without direct sexual contact. Syphilis also has much more serious long-term health consequences if untreated. They looked for somewhere outside the U.S. where the project could be done under less scrutiny.

Both the Terre Haute and Guatemala human experiments were similar to one



Frederico Ramos, 86, left, and Manuel Gudiel, 85, two Guatemalan peasants who were injected with venereal disease for U.S. research project in 1946 when they were soldiers.

already under way in Tuskegee, Ala. From 1932 to 1972, nearly 400 Black men who had already contracted syphilis were “studied” by the Public Health Service, but deliberately not treated, even though the complications from the disease were well known to medical science by that time and penicillin was known to be a cure by the mid-1940s. Cutler joined the Tuskegee project in the 1950s.

In 1972, when the Tuskegee study became known, victims filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, which paid \$9 million in damages and offered free health care to them and their families.

In the Guatemala study records indicate that only about half of the subjects were treated with penicillin. There are no records showing whether

the treatments were successful.

In one of the more bizarre rationalizations for the experiments, Cutler injected syphilis into the spinal fluid of epileptic women, saying it could lead to a cure.

In spite of all the pretenses of aiding medical science and preventing disease, scientists involved in the experiments knew they needed to keep what they were doing secret.

In a confidential letter cited in the commission report, Dr. Richard Arnold warned that if “some goody organization got wind of the work, they would raise a lot of smoke.”

“Many paint Dr. Cutler as a monster,” Reverby told the *Militant*. “But he was part of a system, the institutional structure in the United States of medical science itself.”

Suit charges children exposed to lead for ‘study’

BY MICHEL POITRAS

On September 15 David Armstrong Jr. filed a class action suit in the Baltimore City Circuit Court against the Kennedy Krieger Institute over the hospital’s Lead-Based Paint Abatement and Repair and Maintenance Study in the 1990s. Armstrong Jr. was a subject of the “research” as a child.

The court document charges the medical institution with enticing more than 100 families “into living in lead-tainted housing” in order to subject their children “to a research program which intentionally exposed them to lead poisoning in order for . . . scientific researchers to assess the success of lead paint or lead dust abatement measures.”

According to the suit, the six-year program, which began in 1993, targeted families “who were predominantly from a lower economic strata and minorities.” Lead had been at that time widely used in home paint. Lead poisoning can cause irreversible brain damage to children.

Armstrong’s father was never told that the so-called lead-free housing Kennedy Krieger urged him to rent was in fact contaminated. He and other test subjects were not told that only half measures had been taken to get rid of lead, that the study sought to analyze the effectiveness of a “low cost” approach to decontamination.

Over the course of two years, blood samples were taken from his son. Later, a pediatrician told him that Armstrong Jr.’s blood lead levels were “two and

a half to three times higher than they had been before the family moved into the apartment,” reported the *New York Times*. Kennedy Krieger provided no medical treatment to the children involved in the study.

The class action lawsuit is the latest in a decade-long battle over the institute’s lead paint study. In 2001 the Maryland Court of Appeals compared the study to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. Earlier lawsuits were settled confidentially.

Greek rulers prepare austerity

Continued from front page

dle classes. The measures were taken under pressure from the International Monetary Fund, European Central Bank, and European Commission—the so-called troika—in exchange for massive loans to ensure payments to holders of Greek government bonds. Among those that stand to lose the most in the event of a default on interest payments are banks in France and Germany, Europe’s strongest capitalist powers.

As default by the Greek government appears increasingly inevitable, the Greek cabinet is proposing another \$8.8 billion in cuts to the 2012 budget. The plan includes the transfer of 30,000 public workers to a “special labor reserve” at drastically reduced pay, government wage cuts by as much as 40 percent, deeper slashes of pensions and more taxes for working people.

The cabinet’s budget proposal still falls short of targets demanded by the “troika,” which will decide whether they are satisfied with the austerity measures being taken to extend more loans.

The Greek economy is expected to

shrink by another 5.5 percent this year, according to CNNMoney. The austerity-mounting measures only serve to accelerate the contraction of the economy.

A number of 24-hour and 48-hour strikes have been organized in response to the newest measures, a continuation of the tactic of short finite actions that began last year. The latest strikes by public transport workers and taxi drivers were held September 27-28, shutting down public transportation. Public sector unions have called for a strike October 5 and the union federations are calling for a general strike October 19.

“I went to a couple of actions, but now I’ve stopped,” said Pissanou. “They don’t seem to be doing anything. People are losing their pay, getting exhausted.”

“Work is down about 70 percent for us,” explained Omar Ismail, a Syrian construction worker living on the Greek island of Crete, in a phone interview. “Many Syrian workers have been forced to send their wife or children back to Syria.”

“I have gone to strike actions in
Continued on page 9

**Their
Morals
and
Ours**
**Leon
Trotsky**
*The class foundations
of moral practice*

\$15

A debate on ends and means
John Dewey · George Novack

Pathfinderpress.com

The fight for a democratic secular Palestine

On September 23, Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the Palestine Liberation Organization, sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon submitting the “application of the State of Palestine for admission to membership in the United Nations.” He added that he is for “resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the vision of two States living side by side in peace and security.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu replied that “the Palestinians should first make peace with Israel and then get their state.” President Barack Obama has said that Washington will veto the proposal if it makes it to the UN Security Council.

There can be no lasting peace on any basis of continued oppression and denial of rights to the Palestinian people in its myriad forms. The ceaseless debates and negotiations among bourgeois forces and nations takes place in the framework of their competing priorities and class interests. Counterposed to this, communists put forward a course of revolutionary struggle by the toiling masses for a democratic secular Palestine.

Key aspects of this perspective are outlined in “The World Crisis of Imperialism and the Contradictory Dynamics of the Labor Vanguard,” excerpted below. This document was adopted by the June 2006 national convention of the Socialist Workers Party based on a political report by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes.

Since that time developments in the region make it a little easier to see the road forward. The toppling of regimes in North Africa from Tunisia to Egypt, ongoing struggles from Syria to Bahrain, mass protests inside Israel involving Jews and Arabs have opened space for working people to organize and fight for their interests. What is being prepared in the region is not “peace,” but sharpening class struggle.



BY JACK BARNES

The prospect of a “Greater Israel,” stretching from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, has ended for a decisive majority of the ruling class there. The United States, not Israel, has turned out to be the “promised land” for the Jews. This is reflected even in gross statistics. Of the world’s 13 to 14 million Jews, 6.2 million make their home in the United States, while 5.3 million live in Israel. As of a few months ago, the number of Israelis leaving the country since 2003 outpaced immigration by some 70,000 people.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian population in the territories under Tel Aviv’s control has grown to 5 million. That’s just shy of a majority.

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has declared, as Ariel Sharon and other leaders of the state and army in Israel had done previously, that Tel Aviv’s goal, above all, must be to “ensure a Jewish majority in the country.” Last year when Olmert, then deputy prime minister, spoke to some 250 new immigrants from the United States who were opposed to the Israeli government’s withdrawal from Gaza, he told them: “Maybe if you or a few million of you had come earlier, we wouldn’t have had to leave Gaza.” But that never happened and was never going to. Now it’s clear it never will.

Withdrawing from Gaza and from



Reuters

Wall being built by Israeli government lops off up to 10 percent of occupied territory of West Bank for Israel. “A road forward out of this political morass,” says Barnes, “can only—and will—come out of the response of new generations of working people and youth as the struggle continues on many fronts.” Fight for freedom of movement and travel are among them.

much of the occupied territory on the West Bank is reaching near consensus status within the ruling class of Israel.

Not the ‘promised land’

Of course, the imperialist United States will not be “the promised land” for Jews forever. The next great social crisis will settle that for those who live on hope rather than proletarian politics. But for several generations it has and continues to seem that way. The big majority of Jews who emigrated from Europe to the United States in the last half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth became workers in this country, many of them considering themselves socialists or communists of some variety. But the class composition of the Jewish population has changed dramatically over the past half century, with a majority of the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of these immigrants moving into better-off layers of “rent” collectors among the middle classes and professionals.¹ . . .

So long as the imperialist system prevails, however, neither the United States nor anywhere else will be a “promised land” for the Jews for a long period in history. For Jews in this country, the consequences of the long hot winter world capitalism has entered will bring more—and much worse—than the mounting economic instability and insecurity that will hit widening layers of the middle classes. It will bring in its wake a new rise of fascist organizations that will target not just the labor movement, Blacks, women, and others among the oppressed and exploited, but will also lace their radical anticapitalist

1. The high incomes of those in better-off middle class and professional layers are accounted for by the fact that on top of any payment they may receive for the sale of their labor power (comparable to workers’ wages), their relatively privileged position in bourgeois society allows them to skim off a portion of the surplus value extracted by the capitalist class from the exploitation of workers. These excess sources of income, substantial for the individuals concerned, are called “rents.”

demagoguery and conspiracy mania with Jew-hating filth and carry out physical assaults on Jews.

The U.S. bourgeoisie and their petty-bourgeois spokespersons—including many who are Jewish—promote comfortable assurances that “it can’t happen here.” But such delusions offer no greater protection to Jews in the imperialist United States (or Europe) than it did to those convinced in the 1920s and 1930s that they had fully “assimilated” into capitalist society in enlightened Germany.

Not a ‘peace process’

What the Israeli rulers are seeking to impose in order to consolidate Israel within borders of their own choosing is not a “peace process,” as it’s dubbed by liberals in the big-business media. It’s the consolidation of an Israel still based on the forcible expulsion of the Palestinian majority, together with the “right of return” of those of Jewish parentage—and *only* those of such parentage. Its newly imposed borders will roughly correspond to the 400-mile-long wall the Israeli rulers are building inside the occupied West Bank, which lops off up to 10 percent of that occupied territory for Israel. What’s more, Tel Aviv intends to hold onto East Jerusalem and selected large suburban Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as strategic military locations along the Jordanian border.

There can and will be no long-term peace with the dispossessed Palestinian people on that basis. Or on any other basis that forcibly seeks to guarantee a permanent, large Jewish majority in Palestine. The Israeli rulers aren’t pulling back from their “right” to demolish the family homes of Palestinians accused of bombings or other attacks, let alone their “obligation” to “execute” members and leaders of Palestinian organizations they hold responsible for “terrorism.”

Nor will this be a smooth process within the Israeli ruling class itself. Factionalism is on the rise in bourgeois politics there, too. . . .

Whatever party or coalition of parties comes out on top, this overall direction in bourgeois politics in Israel is irreversible.

As all this unfolds, the stakes continue to mount for the Palestinian people in forging a leadership adequate to the tasks before them, which remains the fight for a democratic secular Palestine. The bourgeoisification and political retreat of the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, described in “The Opening Guns of World War III” [in *New Internationalist* magazine No. 6] some fifteen years ago, has proceeded apace. The PLO long ago exhausted its capacity to lead forward the Palestinian toilers in fighting for national liberation.

The bourgeois-nationalist opposition, Hamas, with its origins in the Muslim Brotherhood, neither has any alternative program or strategy to advance the struggle, nor offers more space to the proletariat to organize and act in the interests of the toiling majority of the Palestinian people.

A road forward

A road forward out of this political morass can only—and will—come out of the response of new generations of working people and youth as the struggle continues on many fronts: fights for land; for water rights; for freedom of movement, freedom to travel; for jobs, decent wages, and union protection; for the release of political prisoners; for women’s equality; against the brutal operations of Tel Aviv’s cops, troops, and commandos; against war threats and mounting prospects for devastating military blows against sections of Israel itself; and many others. Neither we nor anyone else has a script or a timetable of how the forging of such a leadership, a communist leadership, will unfold in Palestine, or anywhere else in the world.

As for Israel itself, a revolutionary leadership that is proletarian internationalist to its core must be built there too—a secular, multinational leadership, with a substantial Jewish component in its makeup. This is a difficult task under the social, political, and military conditions prevailing in Israel. It won’t happen rapidly. And the Palestinian people will not wait, and cannot be asked to wait, for class divisions and conflicts to deepen enough inside Israel for such a process to take place.

Once again, no timetables. A communist leadership of Jewish and Arab workers and farmers—dedicated to the fight for a democratic secular Palestine, and for socialist revolution—can and will be built, however. It will be built as growing numbers of toilers come to understand that if this task is not achieved in time, there will be little left of that part of the world.

for further reading . . .



Che: Need to practice solidarity to build a new Cuba

Below is an excerpt from Che Guevara Talks to Young People. The collection of speeches by Guevara from 1960-64 is one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for October. Born in Argentina in 1928, Guevara joined the July 26 Movement led by Fidel Castro in 1955 and became a central leader of the Cuban Revolution.

He was captured and murdered in a CIA-organized operation in Bolivia in 1967, where he led a guerrilla unit as part of efforts to help extend socialist revolution in the Americas. The following speech was given Aug. 19, 1960, to medical students when the Ministry of Public Health was extending health care to peasants throughout the country. Copyright © 2000 by Pathfinder Press, Aleida March/Che's Personal Archive. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

Some time ago, a few months, a group of students here in Havana, recently certified as doctors, did not want to go to the countryside and were demanding extra payment for doing so. From the viewpoint of the past, this was not out of the ordinary . . .

But what would happen if it were not those boys—the majority of whose families could afford several years of study—who completed their courses and were now beginning to practice



Granma

Meeting of medical students in Havana, Aug. 19, 1960. Presiding, front row from right, Oscar Fernández Mell; Che Guevara; José Ramón Machado Ventura, currently first vice president of Council of State and Council of Ministers; and Cuban poet Nicolás Guillén.

their profession? What if instead 200 or 300 peasants had emerged, as if by magic, from the university lecture halls?

What would have happened, simply, is that those peasants would have run immediately, and with great enthusiasm, to attend to their brothers and sisters. They would have asked for the posts with the most responsibility and the hardest work, in order to show that the years of study they had been given were not in vain. What would have happened is what will happen within six or seven years, when the new students, children of the working class and the peasantry, receive their professional degrees of whatever type. [Applause]

But let's not approach the future with fatalism and divide people into children of the working class or peasantry and counterrevolutionaries. Because that is simplistic, because it is not true, and because there is nothing that educates an honorable man more than living within a revolution. [Applause]

None of us, none of the first group that arrived on the *Granma*,¹ who established ourselves in the Sierra Maestra² and learned to respect the peasant and the worker, living together with him—none of us had a past as a worker or peasant. Naturally, there were those

who had had to work, who had known certain wants in their childhood. But hunger, true hunger—that none of us had known, and we began to know it, temporarily, during the two long years in the Sierra Maestra. And then many things became very clear.

We, who at the outset severely punished anyone who touched even an egg of some rich peasant or landowner, one day took ten thousand head of cattle to the Sierra and said to the peasants simply: "Eat." And the peasants, for the first time in many years—some for the first time in their lives—ate beef.

In the course of the armed struggle, the respect we had for the sacrosanct ownership of those ten thousand head of cattle was lost, and we understood perfectly that the life of a single human being is worth millions of times more than all the property of the rich—

1. Name of yacht that in 1956 carried from Mexico to Cuba 82 combatants commanded by Fidel Castro to initiate the revolutionary war against the U.S.-backed regime of Fulgencio Batista.
2. Highest mountain range in Cuba. During 1956–58 revolutionary war, it was the base of the Castro-led Rebel Army.

est man on earth. [Applause] And we learned it there, we who were not sons of the working class or the peasantry. So why should we shout to the four winds that now we are the superior ones and that the rest of the Cuban people cannot learn too? Yes, they can learn. In fact, the revolution today demands that they learn. It demands they understand that pride in serving our fellow man is much more important than a good income; that the people's gratitude is much more permanent, much more lasting than all the gold one can accumulate. [Applause] . . .

We must then begin to erase our old concepts and come ever closer to the people, and with an ever more critical spirit as we do so. Not in the way we got closer before, because all of you will say: "No, I am a friend of the people. I enjoy talking with workers and peasants, and on Sundays I go to such and such a place to see such and such a thing." Everybody has done that. But that is practicing charity, and what we have to practice today is solidarity. [Applause] We should not draw closer to the people in order to say: "Here we are. We come to give you the charity of our presence, to teach you with our science, to demonstrate your errors, your lack of refinement, your lack of elementary knowledge." We should go with an investigative zeal and with a humble spirit, to learn from the great source of wisdom that is the people. [Applause] . . .

Often we should change all our concepts . . . also, at times, our medical concepts. We will see that diseases are not always treated as one treats an illness in a big-city hospital. We will see that the doctor also has to be a farmer, that he has to learn to cultivate new foods and, by his example, to cultivate the desire to consume new foods, to diversify the nutritional structure in Cuba—so meager and so poor in an agricultural country that is potentially the richest on earth. We will see that under these circumstances we have to be a little bit pedagogical, at times very pedagogical. We will see that we also have to be politicians; that the first thing we have to do is not to offer our wisdom, but to show we are ready to learn with the people, to carry out that great and beautiful common experience—to build a new Cuba.

October BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Oppose US gov’t assassinations!

The September 30 cold-blooded assassination by a U.S. drone strike in Yemen of Anwar al-Awlaki, Samir Khan, and five other people whom Washington alleges were leaders or members of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula is a stark reminder that Washington’s wars abroad are an extension of its war against working people at home.

Since Barack Obama took office in January 2009, the place and weight of “hunter-killer” operations in U.S. military operations—from the Middle East and South Asia to North and East Africa—has grown. This goes hand in hand with increased collaboration between the military and CIA: in the realm of spy operations, expanding use of drones for surveillance and killings, and stepped-up assassinations like that carried out against Osama bin Laden in May.

President Obama openly declared last year that al-Awlaki was a U.S. target for assassination. The deci-

sion was upheld by the courts. In carrying through that unilateral executive judgment, assassinating two U.S. citizens—al-Awlaki and Khan—the U.S. rulers seek to set a dangerous precedent.

Over the last decade, under the pretext of fighting “terrorism,” Washington has militarized U.S. borders; encroached on privacy rights; curtailed the presumption of innocence; increased the powers of cop agencies; and stepped up use of arbitrary searches and arrests, as well as secret trials and secret evidence.

With the deepening crisis of capitalism worldwide, the bosses and their governments are pressing to foist the burden on working people from Greece to the United States. They anticipate intensifying class struggle as should we. And we should also anticipate that the methods and weapons the exploiting class uses against so-called “terrorists” and “foreigners” abroad will one day be turned against working-class militants at home.

Int’l ‘Militant’ subscription campaign

Continued from page 4

Minneapolis that 120 subscriptions to the *Militant* have been sold in the Red River Valley since July 29, three days before American Crystal Sugar locked out 1,300 workers there.

In Atlanta, Janice Lynn and John Benson September 27 stopped by the office of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers, and Grain Millers International Union Local 42 to talk about the fight by sugar workers in the Upper Midwest. They found out there was a protest going on in front of the Kraft Foods Nabisco plant a few blocks away.

“We joined the protest of about 35 workers,” wrote Lynn, “and got the facts on their fight for the *Militant*” (see article on page 5). “We showed workers the paper’s coverage on the fight by sugar workers against the lockout and talked about my visit to their picket lines and the solidarity they are winning. A number of workers had heard about it.”

“We sold two subscriptions,” added Lynn, “one to a truck driver who will be affected by the outsourcing, and another to one of the local’s business agents. A few workers took back copies and subscription blanks to send in, as they had no cash on them. They thanked us for supporting their fight.”

From New York, Ruth Robinett wrote that four subscriptions to the *Militant* and 55 single copies were sold over three visits to the growing protest of youth and unemployed workers near Wall Street in downtown Manhattan.

Correction

The article “Solidarity Gives Boost to Sugar Workers’ Fight” in the October 10 issue gave incorrect names of two unions. They are the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union and Local 3884 of the American Federation of Government Employees.

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Sugar workers

Continued from front page

across the Red River Valley in Minnesota and North Dakota, as well as workers in smaller plants in Chaska, Minn., and Mason City, Iowa.

American Crystal, the largest sugar beet company in the U.S., has been running its plants with management and scab labor.

Several hundred workers at the company’s two North Dakota factories in Drayton and Hillsboro are denied jobless benefits under a state law barring unemployment compensation to workers involved in a labor dispute, even if they’re locked out.

To meet this challenge the union organized a food drive at the end of September. Workers from American Crystal plants in Crookston, Moorhead and East Grand Forks, Minn., are organizing the effort. They have donated more than \$15,000 to their union brothers and sisters in North Dakota.

For several days workers delivered food and household supplies to the union’s offices in Grand Forks and other drop-off points. “BCTGM workers from North Dakota State Mill and Elevator brought a palette of flour, 504 five-pound bags,” said Scott Ripplinger, one of the organizers of the effort.

Ralph Honda, from the Grand Forks local of the National Association of Letter Carriers, organized a large shipment of sorted goods in large paper bags. An anonymous supporter sent close to 2,000 pounds of potatoes.

Nelson, along with about two-dozen BCTGM union members and supporters, loaded up the food and other supplies October 2 and drove to Drayton.

Several locked-out union members in Drayton, a small town of 700 people, greeted the trailer and got busy unloading supplies into a large garage that belonged to two of the locked-out workers. The next stop was Hillsboro, a town of 1,500 about 80 miles south, where another large group of workers unloaded supplies into their union hall.

This week donations came from unions attending the North Dakota AFL-CIO state convention held here. Frank Hurt, international president of the BCTGM, handed over a check for \$50,000 to the locked-out workers. BCTGM Local 285G, which organizes workers at Sidney Sugars, a subsidiary of American Crystal in Sidney, Mont., delivered a check for \$10,000.

BCTGM Local 48G in Keokuk, Iowa, voted October 3 to send another \$500, bringing the total they have donated to \$1,000, reported Buddy Howard. Mark Froemke, a leader of the struggle, told the *Militant* that “\$26,000 had been raised by the Minnesota AFL-CIO from unions in the Twin Cities region.”

Other donations included a check of \$1,000 from United Mine Workers Local 1101, in Beulah, N.D., and \$5,000 from International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1426 in Grand Forks.

“Union supporters continue to send individual donations. One came from an IBEW member in Tampa, Florida,” said John Risky, president of BCTGM Local 167G, which represents workers in sugar beet factories, grain elevators, and flour mills in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, the National Labor Relations Board in Minneapolis dismissed unfair labor practice charges by the union against American Crystal.

“Company training of non-bargaining unit and replacement workers before the lockout began and contacting employees to state its position on negotiations before a union vote on a proposed contract did not violate the National Labor Relations Act,” wrote Marlin Osthus, regional NLRB director.

The union announced it will appeal the decision.

The NLRB also dismissed the company’s charges that the union did not bargain in “good faith.”

The sugar workers’ fight is becoming more known and support for it continues to expand. A solidarity message was received from Morogoro, Tanzania, in East Africa. We “are ready to provide our solidarity to the sisters and brothers and their families under the lockout by American Crystal.” It was sent from a labor conference on the sugar industry from unionists, who like the BCTGM, are affiliated with the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers’ Associations.